

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

REGENCY CLEANERS  
ENTERPRISES LLC,

V.

**Plaintiff,**

TRAVELERS CASUALTY  
INSURANCE COMPANY OF  
AMERICA.

Defendant.

CASE NO. C19-0040JLR

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
REGARDING SUBJECT  
MATTER JURISDICTION

Before the court is Defendant Travelers Casualty Insurance Company of America’s (“Travelers”) notice of removal. (*See* Not. of Rem. (Dkt. # 1).) The court has reviewed the notice of removal, the complaint, the amended complaint, and Plaintiff Regency Cleaners Enterprises, LLC’s (“Regency”) corporate disclosure statement (Plf. (Dkt. # 6)) and finds that Travelers has failed to provide an adequate basis for

1 subject matter jurisdiction over this action. The court therefore orders Travelers within  
2 seven (7) days of the date of this order to serve and file a submission as described below.

3       The removal statute is strictly construed against removal jurisdiction, and a  
4 removing defendant bears the burden of establishing grounds for federal subject matter  
5 jurisdiction in the case. *Cal. ex rel. Lockyer v. Dynegy, Inc.*, 375 F.3d 831, 838 (9th Cir.  
6 2004). In its notice of removal, Travelers invokes the court's diversity jurisdiction. (Not.  
7 of Removal at 2-3 (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1332).) A federal court's diversity jurisdiction  
8 extends to "all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds . . . \$75,000 . . . and  
9 is between . . . citizens of different States." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). "In cases where  
10 entities rather than individuals are litigants, diversity jurisdiction depends on the form of  
11 the entity." *Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*, 437 F.3d 894, 899 (9th Cir.  
12 2006).

13       Here, Travelers states that it is "a corporation organized and duly registered under  
14 the laws of the state of Connecticut, having its principle place of business in Hartford,  
15 Connecticut." (Not. of Removal at 2.) Travelers further states that Regency is "a  
16 corporation organized and duly registered under the laws of the state of Washington,  
17 having its principal place of business in King County, Washington. (*Id.*) However,  
18 Regency does not appear to be a corporation, but rather a limited liability company. (*See*  
19 Plf. CDS.) Indeed, in its corporate disclosure statement Regency states that "Shallina  
20 Lakhani, Shabana Ahmad, and Kamal Uddin are members of Regency Cleaners  
21 Enterprises, LLC." (*Id.* at 1.)

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1 For purposes of assessing diversity jurisdiction, the court must consider the  
2 domicile of all members of a limited liability company. *Johnson*, 437 F.3d at 899; *see*  
3 *also* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 8(a). Travelers has failed to allege the domicile or  
4 citizenship of each of Regency's members—specifically, Shallina Lakhani, Shabana  
5 Ahmad, and Kamal Uddin. Absent representations concerning the citizenship of all of  
6 Regency's members, the court cannot determine if Travelers has properly invoked this  
7 court's subject matter jurisdiction.

8 Accordingly, the court ORDERS Travelers to SHOW CAUSE why this case  
9 should not be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. If Travelers fails to  
10 provide the court with the information described above within seven (7) days of the date  
11 of this order, the court will remand this action to state court. Regency may, but is not  
12 required to, respond to the court's order to show cause within the same timeframe.

13 Dated this 26th day of February, 2019.

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16 JAMES L. ROBART  
17 United States District Judge  
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